

An appendix to the Narrative of the last illness of the Right Honourable Earl of Orford : occasioned by the letter from a physician in town to another at Bath / by John Ranby.

Contributors

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R I G H T H O N O U R A B L E
T H E
E A R L o f O R F O R D :

Occasioned by the *Letter from a Physician in
Town to Another at Bath.*

By J O H N R A N B Y,
Principal S E R J E A N T S U R G E O N to His
M A J E S T Y, and F. R. S.

L O N D O N :
Printed for J O H N and P A U L K N A P T O N, in
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(Price Six-Pence.)

AN
APPENDIX
TO THE
NARRATIVE
OF THE
LAST ILLNESS

OF THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE
EARL OF ORFORD

Occasioned by the Letter from a Physician
to the Earl of Orford at Bath, &c.

BY JOHN RANBY,
Principal Surgeon to the
Earl of Orford, and F.R.S.

LONDON:
Printed for John and Paul Knapton, in
St. Martin's Lane, 1754.

(Price Six-Pence.)

A N

APPENDIX:

Occasioned by the LETTER from a
Physician in Town to Another
at *Bath*.

WHEN I wrote the foregoing Narrative, little did I think of giving Offence by it to any one ; much less to the Physicians, who attended the EARL of *O—d* : as they were treated in it throughout with all the Deference and Respect, due to their high Vogue in their Profession. Nor does it affect me in a small degree, that, after all the Caution I had used, Debates should be moved in the Manner they are, and a Han-

dle be taken for several very unworthy Reflections. I here repeat, that the Account I have given was in Obedience to the late EARL's Commands: who, in the Presence of his whole Family, directed me to open him, and communicate a History of his Case to the Publick; that Mankind might reap the proper Benefit from a Relation of that nature, and Physicians be deterr'd for the future from enterprizing with such Edged-Tools, as, in his Opinion, was the *Lithontriptic Lixivium*: which Dr. J. had assured his Lordship was four times stronger, than the strongest capital Soap-Lye. Now, in complying with this Direction, strict Regard has been had to

to Truth. Nay, so circumspect was I, and so scrupulously nice, in point of Veracity, that I did not send one single Circumstance to the Press, without the previous Confirmation of it by the present EARL, and the greatest Part of the Family. So that, notwithstanding the Insinuations of the Author of the *Letter from a Physician in Town to Another at Bath*, I am so far, even on the maturest Recollection, from having the least Motive for altering any one Paragraph, on the score of Misrepresentation of Facts; that, were I to retract a Syllable on that account, I should be guilty of Prevarication.

THE

THE Flights of one or two Writers on this Occasion I entirely disregarded. And, indeed, this Letter, being of the like anonymous Class, had passed by me in the same unheeded Manner; was I not under the strongest Conviction, it came from a Quarter, which demanded some Attention. It had certainly been more ingenuous in this Writer to have charged me face to face: this dark Method of attacking much better becoming Persons of a Stamp and Character different from His.

THE *Narrative*, though allow'd to be *in the main exact enough*, is, it seems, *something deficient,*

ficient, at least not so clear as it ought to be, in two or three Particulars. * Deficiencies to be sure it has, which I am not unconscious of. Those I shall make it my Business to supply: and, since I am called upon to do it, relate many Things, which, out of Tenderness to the Persons concerned, I had before passed over in Silence. And, had this Author been pleased to have pointed out those two or three Particulars more expressly, which are not so clear as they ought to be; I might have been more precise in giving him Satisfaction concerning them.

As

* p. 3. of the Letter.

As to that *Difference in Opinion*, which, the Letter tells us, *has made so much Noise*, * I thought it the most candid way to give to each Physician his own Opinion : not only that the World might know in what they were agreed, and in what they differed ; but because I apprehended, a *Lixivium* potentially caustic could not be given with the same Propriety to dissolve a Stone in the Kidney, as it might to dissolve one in the Bladder. For this Reason Dr. J. proposed Searching, *in order, if possible, to come at a Certainty, whether there were a Stone in the Bladder, or no, before any Method should*

* *ibid.*

*should be taken for dissolving one. **

It had therefore been great Injustice to Dr. F. to suppose, a Person, of his known Caution and Prudence, would risque his Reputation, by giving a Medicine so corrosive, and at the same time so powerfully forcing, as a *Lixivium*, four times stronger than the strongest capital Soap-Lye, must needs be, upon the vain Pretence of dissolving a Stone in the Kidneys : however sanguine he might be in his Opinion of its dissolving Power, where it could come in Contact with the whole Surface of a Stone; which it could do in the Bladder only.

B

BESIDES

* p. 8.

BESIDES, the best Practical Writers caution against giving Medicines strongly forcing in Nephritic Cases; lest the Effect of them should be a total Obstruction of the *Ureters*. And had the great Quantity of Stones, Gravel, and Sabulous Matter, voided by the EARL of O——d, been lodged in his Kidneys at the time he took this *Lixivium*; he might in that case have run as great a Hazard of his Life from its forcing Quality, as he, in fact, did from its deadly corroding one: the Signs of which shew'd themselves but too evidently in the Bladder. The stronger, consequently, the Reasons were for believing

lieving the bloody Urine to proceed from the Kidneys; the stronger still were the Reasons against either giving this *Lixivium*, or acquiescing in its being given.

THE Letter-Writer, in the next place, pretends to set down those Symptoms only, that were previous to the several Opinions of the Physicians, whereby the Grounds of those Opinions might be more easily seen and understood. * And, in doing this, he has help'd us to the true Reason, why he has not put his Name to his Performance: because he could not then so decently set it off with so much false Colouring. For to what Pur-

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pose

* p. 4.

pose is it, to pretend to establish a Distinction betwixt the Symptoms, previous to this or that Doctor's Opinion: when it is an indisputable Point, that Sir E. H. all along adhered invariably to what he first asserted; viz. *That the Blood came from the Kidney.* So that, if Dr. J. founded his Sentiment, that my Lord had a Stone in his Bladder, on the frequent Provocation to make water, and the Sensation in Glans Penis, both which are Symptoms of the Stone in the Bladder, and not in the Kidneys; * Sir E. H. must necessarily have had both those Symptoms to found his Sentiment upon likewise.

* p. 6.

HOWEVER,

HOWEVER, since this Town-Physician has given us a Detail of the Reasons, Sir E. H. had, for suspecting the Blood to come from the Kidney; it will not be improper to examine each of those Reasons separately.

THE first Reason, it seems, which influenced Sir E. H. was, because *the Discharge of Blood upon Motion, was generally attended with very little Pain; sometimes with none at all: Lord O. having frequently declared, that what he felt, he could not call a Pain, but a Sensation only.* *

Now

* P. 4.

Now, My Lord never made bloody Water, nor even continued to use Motion, without a very uneasy Sensation, and almost a constant Micturition. Nor did the Discharge and Irritation cease, before a Stone or Gravel had been voided, or till he had kept himself for some time perfectly quiet. And, indeed, he often had an Irritation to such a degree, that he could not retain his Urine, notwithstanding all the Quiet imaginable. Nor is it, I think, to be easily conceived, how a Person can be under a constant Irritation to make water, and that often mix'd with large Quantities of florid Blood, without feeling Pain. The Symptom it-
self

self is, and must be, painful: and yet the Pain may not always be acute.

THE second Reason, which inclined Sir *E. H.* to this Opinion, was, because *the Blood-Vessels of the Bladder are small, in comparison of those of the Kidneys; and therefore less likely to throw out large Quantities of Blood.* * The Consequence here is certainly very rationally deduced; and of course would determine one almost always to imagine such plentiful Discharges of Blood to proceed, not from the Kidneys, but from the Bladder: the Blood-Vessels of that Organ being larger than those of the *Pelvis* of the Kidneys; from whence, I apprehend

* p. 5.

hend, Kidney-Bleedings must principally be derived. For I cannot see, how Blood could flow from the Emulgent Vessels, without Death being the unavoidable Consequence. Again, however small the Blood-Vessels of the Bladder are, they may have vast Quantities of Blood derived to, and discharged from, them: as is evident in the Lateral Operation for the Stone. And what a Profusion of Blood do we often see come from the Nose, where the Vessels, though numerous, are nevertheless exceeding small. I must, moreover, beg Leave to remark, that Those, who reason from the Smallness of the Size and Number of the Vessels of the Bladder, seem to do
it

it from the Inspection of a dry one.

Sir E. H——e's third Reason for declaring the Blood to flow from the Kidney, is, because *here was no Tenefinus.* * Now Dr. Hepburn, in his Letter, wrote previously to the Meeting of those Doctors, and without any Suspicion that they would ever meet, asserts, that *after making bloody Water, there has constantly been felt the same Kind of Stimulus upon the Sphincter Ani; and (in some degree) as His Lordship used to feel of old, when a Stone was ready to be voided from the Bladder.* † And I should be glad to know what this

C Stimulus

* *ibid.*

† Narr. p. 44.

Stimulus upon the *Sphincter Ani* was, if it was not a *Tenesmus* : and, which is more remarkable, that very Kind of *Tenesmus*, which is usually felt, *when a Stone is ready to be voided from the Bladder.*

THE fourth Reason, that induced Sir E. H. to suspect its being a Kidney-Affair, was, because *His Lordship's Mother had died of a Stone in her Kidney.* * And what if she had died of the Gout in her Stomach ? Could it thence be concluded, His Lordship must have been liable to the Gout in his Stomach likewise ; rather than in his Foot, or in any other Part ? There

* *ibid.*

There are Diseases incontestably hereditary : and a Disposition to the Stone in general in the Son might, with Probability enough, be inferr'd from his Mother's having had the Stone in her Kidney. But that Disposition might as well shew itself in his Bladder, as in his Kidney. And, since Physicians judge of Diseases by their Symptoms, it was most natural to imagine it should shew itself there, where the Symptoms pointed. I would now beg Leave to ask the Letter-Writer, if he should observe the indubitable Signs of the Stone in the Bladder, such as a frequent Provocation to make water, an Irritation in *Glande Penis*, and a *Stimulus* upon the *Sphincter Ani*,

united in the Distemper of one of
 his Patients ; and that too with-
 out any one Symptom of the Stone
 in the Kidney : whether the single
 Circumstance, *of his Mother's ha-*
ving died of the Stone in her Kid-
ney, could have Weight enough
 with him, notwithstanding all these
 Pathognomonic Symptoms (as I
 think they are call'd) of the Stone
 in the Bladder, to induce him to
 believe his Patient had a Stone in
 the Kidney ? He will not, I am
 perswaded, answer me in the Affir-
 mative. All this, therefore, be-
 ing candidly and impartially con-
 sider'd, it cannot be thought Sir
E. H. had such good Grounds for
 his Opinion, that the Blood came
 from the Kidneys. In which Opinion,
 this

this *London-Physician* tells us, *He cannot learn that he was ever positive; at least, not till that extraordinary Discharge of the fourth of February, amounting by Estimation to at least forty Ounces, occasioned a more positive Declaration from him: And then, if we will credit this Physician, he had still stronger Reasons for it.** I may not perhaps cleverly understand what it is to be positive. But, if being inflexibly tenacious of an Opinion be Positiveness; I will take upon me to say, that Sir *E.H.* was really positive: though there was not the least Foundation in nature for his being so. For it is impossible, that so much Blood, and such a Number

* *ibid.*

ber of Stones, should pass at once from the Kidneys to the Bladder, and not be attended with any one distinguishing Sign of a Nephritic Fit. Whence he was so far from having stronger Reasons for his positive Declaration on the fourth of *February*; that my Lord's Pain, and constant Irritation to make water, as well as great Bearing down upon the *Anus* on that Day, would have fix'd any Man, one would think, not downright obstinate, in a contrary Opinion : whatever Doubts, or Fluctuation, he might have been under before.

THE Truth is; the Matter had been frequently canvass'd in Lord O——d's Presence : and Sir *E. H.*
never

never had a Doubt of its being a
 Kidney-Cafe; and first mentioned
 Dr. J. with an Eye to his confirm-
 ing that Opinion. Dr. J—n's
 Character in his Profession had raised
 the Expectations of every body a-
 bout My Lord: and One of his
 Friends had put into his Hands
 the Doctor's own Cafe, wrote by
 himself. The Perusal of which, in
 Conjunction with the favourable I-
 dea he had conceived of his Abi-
 lities, induced his Lordship to ven-
 ture on the *Lixivium*: and the ra-
 ther, as his Physician in Ordinary,
 Sir E. H. had assured him; that,
 tho' he himself knew little of the
 Medicine, he could not help think-
 ing well of it, from the Lights Dr.
 J. had given him; upon whom he

could entirely rely. Though, it must be confessed, My Lord was never known, from first to last, to give into any Notion of its Dissolving Property; but ever, on the contrary, dreaded its Consequences: especially, after he had been apprized of its extreme Strength by Dr. F.

I come now to Dr. C. of whom I think as highly as the Letter-Writer possibly can. And yet he certainly made, however inadvertently, the contested Declaration. The Day before he was to meet the other Physicians in Consultation, (which was, I think, on the eleventh of *February*) he was desired to

to give Sir *E. H.* a Meeting at Lord *O—d's*; of which Dr. *J.* should be by no means apprized. Dr. *C.* accordingly came: and, after my giving him the History of his Lordship's Case, from the first Nephritic Fit, the preceding *May*, directed jointly with Sir *E. H.* He likewise saw the Stones, which came away on the fourth of *February*. And, what Difficulties soever have arisen since, he made no one then to assert, that all Bleedings of that Kind came absolutely from the Kidneys; and, frequently, with little or no Pain. This Opinion he afterwards confirm'd on several Occasions. Nay, I appeal to Dr. *J.* himself; if, on his relating his own Case to Dr.

D

C.

C. wherein there had been a considerable Loss of Blood, on a Journey of thirty Miles, which he (Dr. J.) imputed to a Rupture of some Vessels of the Bladder, Dr. C. did not express great Surprize at such an Opinion; and plainly declare, that he never remembered to have seen any Bleeding from the Bladder, except when caused by passing the *Catheter* for a Suppression of Urine; and then in no considerable Quantity? Notwithstanding this, our Town-Physician is pleased *to wish Mr. R. instead of taking up with loose Talk, perhaps imperfectly heard, or ill understood, had taken a little more Care to know Dr. C——e's real Sentiment, before he printed, it*
being

*being certain, that he never express'd himself in this Manner.**

As I could not dive into the Doctor's Mind, and by that means discover his real Sentiment; I had no way of knowing what he thought, but by what he said. But, since Dr. C. was not call'd in, till the *Litbontriptic Lixivium* had been left off for some time, no Mischief could accrue from his delivering his Opinion, whether right or wrong. I shall therefore say no more on this head; after the solemn Disavowal the Doctor has made of it, or the Town-Doctor for him.

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FROM

* p. 24.

FROM the eleventh of *February*, Dr. C. attended Lord O. along with the other two Physicians for near a Fortnight: when (if this Writer is to be believed) Dr. C. and Dr. J. having for two or three days before, represented both to His Lordship and to the Family, that, He being now so much better, there was no longer any Occasion for more than one Physician, with some Difficulty obtained their Dismission on the 23d of February. * This whole Paragraph, which is very defective, I shall, for this Gentleman's Satisfaction, take the Trouble to adjust. *Obtaining a Dismission with some Difficulty* is
 I a Phrase

* p. 23.

a Phrase absolutely the most foreign, that could be made use of on this Occasion. My Lord, through the violent Pains brought upon him, and the Danger he was sensible, he was in, from the *Lixivium*, had for some time conceived a great Dislike of Dr. J. This Dismission-Scheme, therefore, was not an Effect of His Lordship's Mending, and a Dissolving of the Consultation on that score, at the real Instances of those two Physicians; but a temporary Expedient to rid him of One, whose Presence was become extremely disagreeable to him. For, the same Evening, Dr. C. had a Message sent him, to meet Sir E. H. the next Morning, without Dr. J. He attended
accord-

accordingly; and continued so to do, to my Lord's Dying-Day.—

BUT to proceed. “I twice attempted to pass the *Catheter*, at the Solicitations of the Physicians, * &c.—What put them on pressing so much this Operation, was to draw from the Bladder the grumous Blood, and thereby restore that Vessel to its former Tone.” *Who does not see*, says this Writer, *that the Whole is owing to a little piece of Inadvertence in Mr. R. who should have said, the Physicians proposed to draw off the Urine?* † Whatever ludicrous Reflections may be thrown out, on the Surgeons complying with so absurd

* See the Narrative, p. 32.

† p. 29.

absurd an Injunction, as that of passing the *Catheter*, in order to draw off grumous Blood from the Bladder ; I choose rather to adhere strictly to the Truth, than recur to the Sanctuary so directly pointed out to me in this Passage. To speak freely in the Words of this Author ; Two of these *grave and learned Doctors*, sitting in deep Consultation, did take it into their wise Heads, that Clots of coagulated Blood maybe drawn off thro' the *Catheter* : * and did accordingly direct the Surgeons to use the *Catheter* for that purpose. Drawing off the Urine was, at that time, the least Object of those Gentlemen's Thoughts ; as, indeed, it ever ought

* p. 28.

ought to have been. For That continually pass'd off involuntarily: and was the only Thing, that could be instrumental in dissolving the coagulated Blood. For which Reason, it must have been *an Error, and one that needed no Aggravation,* * to have drawn it off. Of this Dr. J. himself was fully sensible: who, by his earnest Remonstrances, founded on the great Danger of such a Procedure, kept the proposed Operation in Suspence for three or four days. However, as it was alledged, that nothing could succeed, till the Bladder was cleared of the grumous Blood; All that was urged, either by Mr. C. or myself, to the
 contra-

* *ibid.*

contrary, could not excuse us from attempting to pass the *Catheter* : and That, even whilst an Inflammation subsisted.

THE Town-Physician in the last place professes himself *greatly at a loss for a clear and satisfactory Answer* to that *most important Query, What was it that the Earl of Orford died of ? ** In answer to which, after various Turnings and Doublings, in order the better to mislead and impose upon his Reader ; he at length modestly insinuates, his Death was owing to the Surgeons not drawing off the Urine by the *Catheter*. *Could this have been as happily executed, as*

E it

* P. 32.

*it was judiciously directed, I do not see, says this most egregious Artist, but that his Lordship might have lived for some number of Years more, in Ease and Health. **

THIS calls to my Mind the *Welch* Doctor's Evidence. A Cocker was try'd before Sir *Joseph Jekyll*, for murdering a Man, by stabbing him through the Heart: The DOCTOR OF THE TOWN ran to his Assistance, and found an Apothecary forcing a Cordial down the poor Fellow's Throat, when he was just expiring. Upon the Tryal, the Doctor being asked, what was the Cause of his Death, declared it could be nothing but the Cordial.

Cordial. How, says the Judge, what think you of the Wound in the Heart? Nothing—Nothing, my Lord, replies the Doctor: I am upon my Oath, and declare, he died of the Apothecary.

BUT to return: in order to form a right Judgment of this Author, it is necessary to observe Dates with some Exactness. Now, it appears by the Journal kept by one of my Lord's Sons, as well as myself; that “on the eleventh of *February*, at eight in the Evening, Sir *E H.* and Dr. *J.* being present, Mr. *Ranby* with his Hands pressed the Bottom of his (my Lord's) Belly; and the Water gushed out of a

E 2 “ perfect

“ perfect deep Coffee Colour. They
 “ (the Physicians) now concluded,
 “ his Bladder was filled with coa-
 “ gulated Blood ; and so much
 “ distended, that it had lost its
 “ Tone.” * *Feb.* 12th the Physi-
 cians first mentioned the *Catheter* ;
 and proposed its being introduced
 the next Day : but then declined
 putting it up, “ for fear of doing
 “ farther Injury to Parts, already
 “ too much hurt.” The Intro-
 duction of the *Catheter* was, in-
 deed, talked of for two or three
 days next following : but, Dr. J.
 objecting to it, the Use of it was
 defer’d till *February* the seventeenth.
 So that, whatever Mischief might
 have happen’d, from the Bladder be-
 ing

* Narr. p. 28.

ing distended with this *Coagulum* at first; or, how much soever the Mischief might have been prevented, by drawing off the Urine with the *Catheter*, at the time, when it was distended; I desire, it may be remember'd, that the Physicians never order'd the *Catheter* to be introduced, before the seventeenth of *February*: at which time, the Urine, impregnated with this grumous Matter, rather exceeded all he (my Lord) drank; wetting four or five and thirty Napkins every twenty four Hours. Therefore, since the Urine came away at that time, in so large a Quantity, involuntarily; there could, surely, then be no Danger from the Distention of the Bladder; nor any useful End answer'd
by

by drawing off the Urine. Whence it appears, that what this Gentleman insinuates, concerning the Cause of the Earl's Death, whether true or false, can no ways affect the Surgeons: since the Physicians, by whose Judgment they were to be guided in what they did, never once directed the *Catheter* to be introduced, during the whole time the Bladder was distended; nor, indeed, till the Urine came away involuntarily in greater Quantities, than was necessary. How *judiciously* it was then directed, I leave to Others to make Reflections.

Now, however this Writer may be prejudiced in favour of Dr. J--s *Nostrum*, it will, methinks, be no difficult

difficult Matter to help him to a clearer and more satisfactory Answer to his most important Query *viz. What was it the Earl of O. died of?* than what he has attempted to palm upon the Public.

FOR my own part, I do firmly believe, that he died of the *Lixivium*. Neither am I singular in this Opinion. For, after enquiring through the whole Circle of my Physical Acquaintance, I find them universally agreed in it.

THE strongest Capital Soap-Lye, mix'd with Lime, and boil'd to a solid Substance, constitutes what is call'd the Potential Caution: an Application made use of to burn
found

found Flesh. How vehemently corrosive then must this *Lithontriptic* be; which, by the Doctor's own Acknowledgment, is, at least, four times stronger, than the strongest Capital Soap Lye? By which Estimation it appears, that My Lord took what was equal to four times six and thirty Ounces of the strongest Capital Lye, in seven Weeks time. If therefore we take into Consideration the fiery, corrosive, Nature of the *Lithontriptic Lixivium*; the great Quantity of this *Nosstrum*, My Lord's Blood must have been charged with; and the Complaints made by many, who have tried it, of its forcing Quality; we may with Reason believe, it contributed,

tributed, and that in an eminent degree, to the producing of those Erosions, Inflammations, and Pains in the Bowels and Bladder; together with the Fever consequent to them: which, terminating at last in a Colliquative Looseness, carried off the Earl of O-----d.

BUT *it seems, the Stones were all come away, except those small ones, which after Death were found lodged in the Membrane at the Neck of the Bladder, about the Size of Half a Grain of Wheat, says the Certificate, but which as Dr. C. and Sir E. H. likewise, upon Recollection, affirms, did not exceed the Size of a small Pin's*

F Head.

Inclination to mix farther in this Dispute, than the Defence of the Truth may make necessary ; and much less to answer Abuse by Abuse : I shall dispense with myself from making any more Replies to anonymous Writers, who must ever be unequal Antagonists. Since, a Man, who does not set his Name to what he writes, provided he be insensible to the Dictates of Honour, and the Reproaches of his own Mind, may misrepresent and defame, by all Manner of Falsities, with Impunity.

The E N D.